APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/852,610	05/09/2001	Carlos A. Serrano-Morales	60000-0012	4892

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EXAMINER
BOOKER, KELVIN E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
2121	5

DATE MAILED: 07/02/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

	Application No.		Applicant(s)	
Office Action Summary	09/852,610		SERRANO-MORALES ET AL.	
	Examiner		**Art Unit**	
	Kelvin E Booker		2121	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE <u>3</u> MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
  after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
  Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
  earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1)☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on <u>09 May 2001</u>.

2a)☐ This action is **FINAL**.   2b)☒ This action is non-final.

3)☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4)☒ Claim(s) *1-46* is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5)☒ Claim(s) *22,23,45 and 46* is/are allowed.

6)☒ Claim(s) *1-21 and 24-44* is/are rejected.

7)☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8)☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9)☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10)☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

    Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11)☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12)☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All   b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1)☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2)☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3)☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.

4)☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
    Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ .

5)☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6)☒ Other: *Detailed Office Action*.

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

PTOL-326 (Rev. 1-04)   Office Action Summary   Part of Paper No./Mail Date 5

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. The title of the invention is not descriptive. A new title is required that is clearly indicative

of the invention to which the claims are directed.

2. The following title is suggested: "User Selectable Approach for Generating Modifiable

Business Logic Rules".

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the

basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. **Claims 1-21 and 24-44** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Mani et

al., U.S. Patent No. 6,677,963 [hereafter Mani].

   As per claim 1, Mani teaches of a computer-implemented method for generating a rule,

the method comprising the steps of:

A. generating rule element data that defines a set of choices that a user may choose for a

rule element (see figure 5, elements 530, 535 and 540; column 4, lines 47-65: "the model

manipulation...evaluate the campaigns");

B. receiving user choice data that specifies one or more choices made by the user for the

rule element (see figure 4, elements 420-440; column 4, lines 38-65: "A model

includes...evaluate the campaigns"); and

C. generating the rule based upon the user choice data (see figure 5, elements 540, 545

and 550; column 3, lines 53-58: "Via the user interface...'model manipulation system'").

As per claim 2, Mani teaches of a method wherein the steps further include presenting a

set of choices to the user (see figure 5, elements 530-560; column 2, line 64 through column 3,

line 11).

As per claim 3, Mani teaches of a method wherein:

A. the method further comprises generating a user interface based on the rule element

data [e.g., modeling] (see column 3, line 59 through column 4, line 5: "In the model

manipulation system...human business analysis"); and

B. wherein the step of receiving user choice data includes receiving user choice data from

a user interacting with the user interface (see column 3, line 61 through column 4, line 1: "Each

time a user...business problem or situation").

As per claim 4, Mani teaches of a method wherein:

A. the method further comprises receiving user input specifying a set of values defining

the set of choices (see figure 5, elements 530 and 535: values which define the determined

parameter); and

B. wherein the step of generating the rule element data includes generating rule element data that defines the set of values as the set of choices (see figure 5, element 545: the chosen orientation defines the value sets).

As per claim 5, Mani teaches of a method wherein the rule element is a value (see tables 1 and 2; and column 8, lines 28-38).

As per claim 6, Mani teaches of a method wherein the rule element data specifies a source of data that defines the set of choices (see figure 6, elements 605-620 and 635; and column 8, lines 12-16: "While editing a rule...an existing rule").

As per claim 7, Mani teaches of a method wherein the source of data is a database system (see figure 2, elements 215-230).

As per claim 8, Mani teaches of a method wherein the rule element is a condition (see figure 5, elements 530-540: conditional elements/parameters governing rules).

As per claim 9, Mani teaches of a method further comprising processing the rule (see figure 5, elements 550: creating and processing rules based upon predetermined elements).

As per claim 10, Mani teaches of a method further comprising updating a rule repository to reflect the rule (see column 3, lines 53-58; and column 9, line 25-column 10, line 25).

As per claim 11, Mani teaches of a method wherein the rule element data further defines how the user may select the set of choices (see figure 5, elements 530-545: provides for elements and how to select, arrange and re-configure elements, respective of modeling).

As per claim 12, Mani teaches of a method wherein the step of generating the rule based upon the user choice data includes generating the rule based upon the user choice data and other rule data (see column 4, lines 47-65).

As per claim 13, Mani teaches of a method wherein:

A. the other rule data defines another version of the rule (see column 3, line 53-column 4, line 5: manipulating rule data allows various versions of the rules to be defined and re-defined through modeling of the system); and

B. the user choice data specifies modification to the version (see column 3, line 53-column 4, line 5).

As per claim 14, Mani teaches of a method wherein the other rule data specifies an attribute of the rule not defined by the rule element data (see column 9, line 25- column 10, line 25).

As per claims 15-17, Mani does not explicitly disclose a method wherein the set of choices consist of a set of data types, values and operators.

However, this is deemed to be inherent to Mani's system, as throughout the reference, Mani teaches of creating rule-sets based upon user selected criteria, resulting in a method which is capable of performing a multitude of variable calculations and system modeling functions as a result of the user initiated choices.

Mani's method of operations would not be executable if there did not exist a means for assigning variables, data types, values and operators for generating and facilitating the code necessary for execution.

As per claim 18, Mani teaches of a method wherein the set of choices is a set of constraints (see figure 5, element 545; and column 9, line 25 through column 10, line 25: selected criteria defining the constraints of a process).

As per claim 19, Mani teaches of a method wherein the set of choices is a set of business logic (see column 2, lines 53 - 64).

As per claim 20, Mani teaches of a method wherein the rule is a business rule (see column 6, lines 27-38).

As per claim 21, Mani teaches of a computer-implemented method for generating a rule, the method comprising the steps of:

A. generating rule element data that defines a set of values that a user may choose for a rule element (see figure 5, elements 530, 535 and 540; column 4, lines 47-65);

B. receiving user choice data that specifies one or more values chosen by the user for the rule element (see figure 4, elements 420-440; column 4, lines 38-65); and

C. generating the rule based upon the user choice data (see figure 5, elements 540, 545 and 550; column 3, lines 53-58).

As per claims 24-43, the same limitations are subjected to in **claims 1-20,** respectively, therefore the same rejections apply (see claims 1-20 above).

As per claim 44, the same limitations are subjected to in **claim 21,** therefore the same rejections apply (see claim 21 above).

Allowable Subject Matter

5. **Claims 22, 23, 45 and 46** are allowed.

6. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

the cited prior art fails to explicitly teach of a method consistent with the limitations of

independent claims 22 and 45, wherein a method for generating a rule comprise of generating a

template that defines a rule structure with one or more rule elements and an editable rule

element, type and set of choices available to a user for the editable rule.

Conclusion

7.   The following prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to

applicant's disclosure:

A. Mukherjee, U.S. Patent No. 6,314,415;

B. Xu et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,493,694;

C. Maeda et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,321,217;

D. Barry et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,188,988;

E. Thurlow et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,057,841;

F. Thurlow et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,917,489;

G. Maier et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,408,587;

H. Valente et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0110192;

I. Serrano-Morales et al., U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0032688;

J. Stack, U.S. Patent No. 6,257,774;

K. Morscheck et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,076,080;

L. Stack, U.S. Patent No. 5,815,717;

M. Galis et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,175,800;

N. Tennant et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,829,423;

O. Setnes et al., "Rule-Based Modeling: Precision and Transparency";
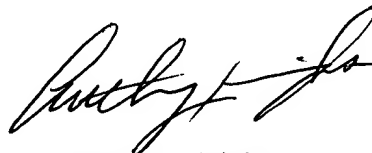
P. Yasdi, "Learning Classification Rules From Database In The Context of Knowledge

Acquisition and Representation"; and

Q. Elwahidi et al., "Generating User Interfaces From Specifications Produced By a

Reverse Engineering Process".

8.   An inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner

should be directed to Kelvin Booker whose telephone number is (703) 308-4088. The examiner

can normally be reached on Monday-Friday from 7:00 AM-5:30 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's

supervisor, Anthony Knight, can be reached on (703) 308-3179. The fax number for the

organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

An inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application proceeding

should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 305-3900.

Anthony Knight
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Group 3600

K.E.B.

Art Unit 2121

June 25, 2004